

WRESTLING FORUM

SEPTEMBER 15, 1988

VOLUME III

ISSUE 17

THE MULTILITH 1250 PRESENTS.....
a job for the Minolta EP520 copier...

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WELL...CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE?

Welcome to the very first edition of Wrestling Forum to ever be produced on a commercial printing press! I have no idea how it's going to look...we've done some testing and the test copies of old bulletins didn't look half bad, but there definitely is some sort of difference, but I can't quite put my finger on it. Anyway, the press is up and going and we're on our way (to where, I'm not quite sure, but we're going there).

Wrestling Forum is published on the 15th and 30th of each month and mailed the following day. Rates are \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for anywhere from one to twelve issues (that's six months worth). Just take the number of issues you want and multiply it by \$1.50 (or take the amount you have and divided by \$1.50) and send it in. That covers the business end I think.

Can we talk about last issue a minute? Good. First off, I'm sorry. It sucked. It had to be the worst one I've ever done. It was put together in a hurry and nothing fell together like it usually does. Doing a bulletin has for the most part been pretty easy to do. I'm counting on the situation being only temporary (sort of like Kurt Gibson's occasional slumps). Part of the problem is, when you feel an issue or a story going down hill, you try to correct and you end up overcorrecting and the end result is what you got in your hands last time. It had it's moments, but for the most part, I was very disappointed.

How to get back on the right track? Like I said, I just won't try so hard. Pressure is something I need to perform, but too much... well you get the idea.

Onto the FORUMBUCKS subscription drive. To cover the rules again, you receive one FORUMBUCK for each issue that you get a friend to subscribe for. If someone subscribes for ten issue because you sent him, you get ten FORUMBUCKS. FORUMBUCKS can be traded for extensions of your own subscription, video tapes, yearbooks, old programs and other wrestling items. We'll send a list to you along with the FORUMBUCK cost if you like. The subscription drive ends on January 1, 1988 so you can either save the BUCKS or turn them in immediately.

Also, twice a month we'll have a "mystery date." That's where one day in between issues I'll designate as a special mystery date. That date, any Forumbucks that are earned will be worth varying amounts. Some dates will be worth double or even triple bucks. If someone you get to subscribe has their subscription received on the mystery date, you get the extra bucks.

One other thing that I need your collective help on...In the November 15th edition of the Forum, we'll be listing all the categories for our year end awards. It has been brought to my attention that when I list the categories along with my picks, it tend to influence the voters. The question for you is this: When I list the awards, would you like my picks along with them, or just a bunch of wrestlers that can probably be considered front runners? If you don't want me to list my picks in the beginning, then when do you want them listed? Just jot me a note and we'll take all the suggestions into consideration and probably go with the majority. Fair enough?

Also, we are in desperate need of results to fill the two pages we devote to that. If you attend a card, by all means, send them along. If we don't start getting enough (and I think our problems in that department are over on this end), we'll have to cut that section back to one page instead of two. You may phone in results if you like, and it seems that that is becoming the most common way of receiving results anymore. Thanks in advance for you help here.

Enjoy this issue...let's get over to tournament central with Sean Grande and check the latest results from there.

THIRD ANNUAL WRESTLING FORUM TOURNAMENT

Here are the results of the "Round of Sixteen":

Ted DiBiase rolled by Tully Blanchard 21-3
 Owen Hart flew past Nobuhiko Takada 16-7 (1 draw)
 Stan Hansen bulldogged Pat Tanaka 13-10 (1 draw)
 Barry Windham rode past Akira Maeda 17-7
 Randy Savage squeaked by Eddie Gilbert 12-11
 Road Warrior Hawk surprised Tatsumi Fujinami 14-10
 Bobby Eaton beat Road Warrior Animal 13-9 (2 draws)

TOURNEYFACTS: Windham, Flair and Savage now make their third straight trip to the quarterfinals. Windham has never made it past that point though, losing to Flair in 86 and Hawk in 87. DiBiase chalked up his eleventh straight victory tying a record.

QUARTER FINALS

Seeds are listed in parenthesis. Wrestler playing heel role is listed in CAPITAL LETTERS.

- (1) TED DIBIASE vs (8) Owen Hart
- (4) Barry Windham vs STAN HANSEN
- (3) Randy Savage vs (22) HAWK
- (2) RIC FLAIR vs (10) Bobby Eaton

Two of the above matches are repeats from previous years. Savage beat Hawk 13-9 in the Semi finals in 1987 and Flair shutout Bobby Eaton last time they met, 27-0 in the third round of 1986.

TAG TEAM TOURNAMENT results

Midnight Express creamed the Midnight Rockers 22-1
 Bulldogs bit Tsruta/Yatsu 15-7
 Blanchard/Anderson downed Andre/DiBiase 12-10
 Rougeau brothers shocked the Fantastics 12-11
 Powers of Pain hurt Badd Company 13-10
 Fujinami/Kimura won by forfeit over the R&R Express.
 Road Warriors pounded Windham/Garvin 19-5

quarter finals

- (1) Midnight Express vs (16) Bulldogs
- (5) Choshu/Saito vs (4) Anderson/Blanchard
- Rougeau Brothers vs (6) Powers of Pain
- (2) Road Warriors vs (7) Fujinami/Kimura

send your votes to :

SEAN GRANDE
 700 Commonwealth Ave
 Box 0701-C
 Boston, MA 02215

Deadline for votes is OCTOBER 7TH due to the convention

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Well, the Tribune Company is talking now, so that means the deal (or whatever sort of thing they had going) is off. Here's what caused all the hubbub for a couple of weeks. Verne was searching for a way to produce his Pay Per View Card. One of the organizations he approached was the Tribune Company. They turned him down, and then he asked if they were still interested in buying. They were "mildly curious" until Verne dropped a price tag on the group at somewhere around \$7 million. The pentagon might pay that kind of price but not anyone who is even close to sane.

It looks like they might have a place now to hold the PPV card, if you can believe the rumors they circulate. Word is that they will have the thing at the UIC Pavilion in Chicago, but now they have a problem in finding an open date. After that, they'll worry about talent, and probably in that order.

How long have they been claiming that Jimmy Snuka is coming back to the AWA? He was announced for the next set of tapings and again, he won't show as he's in Japan. They apologize and say he'll be at the next set. Did these guys ever hear the story about the little boy who cried "Wolf!"?

Colonel DeBeers has returned and is being managed by Diamond Dallas Page. ESPN had refused to air his interviews due to their controversial nature at first, but he has appeared so it looks like he has agreed to tone them down. The good Colonel was/is a big part of the Windy City Wrestling plans so this move could affect them.

September 17, the AWA will present in conjunction with the Memphis group, "Renegade Music City Mayhem" in Nashville. World Class will also participate with the AWA taping the show for TV. They are sending McDaniel, Gagne, the Guererro and Slaughter. Main event will be Kerry VE vs Lawler for a unification bout.

September 25 or thereabouts is the date we've all been waiting for. That's when Stanley Blackburn will let them talk about the big announcement. Aren't you thrilled?

WRESTLERS ARE People Too



5
This issue, our Wrestlers Are People Too is going to take just a little different look at the boys. This column is based on personal experience from myself, a subscriber who went with us to the Peoria show, and another subscriber who didn't know I was there but phoned in results later. If I would have been with that subscriber, the column would have taken a much more interesting look as he got with more of the wrestlers than we did. Here we go with myself leading off.

LANNY POFFO

Make fun of this guy all you want in regards to his out of the ring lifestyle. This man is truly a class act. He was at the souvenir table signing autographs at intermission (as he always does). He looked extremely bored as little kids shoved programs, foam 2 x 4's, and paper napkins at him to sign. Every once in a while he'd extend what appeared to be an unwilling hand for someone to shake. He kept looking up at me while I stood there taking everything in. As the crowd cleared out he walked over to me and said "How you doin'?" I told him that I had just seen some tapes of him in Memphis with Randy against the Rock and Roll Express. He broke into a big smile and said, "Yeah, that was fun stuff." He looked to the side and excused himself very abruptly. He went over to a young child who was deformed. This kid had basically no arms after his elbows with each stub of an arm having what resembled a couple of fingers. This kid was the most excited kid I'd ever seen at having the opportunity to meet a real live wrestler. They hugged with Lanny giving him a kiss on the forehead and calling him champ. They playfully sparred a bit with Lanny finally raising the kid's "arm" in mock victory. The kid said, "I love you, Leapin' Lanny!" Lanny, obviously fighting back tears, said, "I love you too, Champ!" So be forewarned. Don't call here and make fun of Lanny anymore. I won't listen to it.

BLACKJACK LANZA

(Subscriber experience) Asked for an autograph politely and was refused in a cold way. Subscriber said, "Can I ask you just one question?" Lanza's reply: No. I should have went with him with my tape recorder and asked him if he wanted to say hi to anybody I guess.

OWEN HART

(Subscriber experience) Saw Owen without the mask in the hallway. Said "Hey, Owen, great match tonight!" Owen just said, "Thanks" and walked away shaking his head. I think he said something about Meltzer and Peoria.

TERRY TAYLOR

Didn't want to talk and kept his heel image going as there were others around (subscriber experience).

PEDRO MORALES

(subscriber experience) Denied being connected in any way shape or form with the WWF. Claimed to be a reporter or something.

BARRY HOROWITZ

(subscriber experience) Saw him away from the arena later that evening and he was very impressed with my knowlege of the sport. I claled him "Jack" and that got his attention (no marks around). Was quite nice, a bit protective of the business, and very receptive to compliments.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

The third Clash of Champions was held on September 7 from the Albany, GA Civic Center. With Titan holding their Summer Scam card just a couple weeks earlier, this was, in my estimation, the NWA's "answer" to that show. Because of that, as I sit here, I have yet to see the Clash show. I wanted all things to be equal, least anyone say I was impartial towards either group (although there will always be those who do anyway). I'm here at midnight ready to watch the tape and type at the same time, just like I did with Summer Scam. Push play, and we're on our way:

MIKE ROTUNDA VS BRAD ARMSTRONG...there's good heat, but then again, this is in Armstrong's backyard. They're doing a lot of rest holds with some good solid spots mixed in. The rest holds are being sold well, though by both men. Match goes back and forth momentum wise, working the mat with Rotundo getting several two counts on Brad. At the 16:00 mark, the match starts to get hot. Doc comes to ringside to cheer on Brad. At 18:00 Rotundo catches Brad in airplane spin, but get dizzy himself and can't cover Brad. When he does, Brad manages to kick out. The match ends in a draw with Rotundo having Brad in a pinning predicament at the bell and Brad kicking out. Unusual ending because usually it's the face who has the heel reeling at the end and here Rotundo had Armstrong just about out several times. Grade for the match is a C+ as it was a little better than average and a good opener. It looked like the guys were holding back, probably for two reasons. 1) they had to go 20 minutes to a draw and wanted to pace themselves, and 2) openers are supposed to be good, but not great.

At this point, they reviewed the Jim Garvin-Kevin Sullivan incident from last weekend's TBS show. Since we haven't reviewed it yet, we'll wait till later on in the report.

SHEEPHERDERS VS DOC/NIKITA...Cheap shot time...they announce Nikita's weight in kilos (they always do and I always think back to the guy beside of me at the Bash in Chicago last year who said "gee, that's a lot of dope!") which may or may not have been appropriate since Doc was in the ring with him. Doc opened by doing a lot of football tackles. The Sheeps are selling their butts off and everything they do is exaggerated to the point of looking "fake." Nikita is in one of those moods where he doesn't sell a thing. At one point, Doc does one of the louisiest clotheslines I've ever seen (comparable to the messed up Irish whip that Bad News and Patera executed), except that Luke doesn't sell it. That was the proper thing to do. If it looked bad, then don't sell. Doc did an impressive flying cross body block from the top rope followed shortly thereafter by a missed tackle in the corner. He caught the ring post and it was the heel's turn to take over. Butch and Doc are working well together. There are a couple of hot tags and the end finally came when Doc went for a press slam on one of the Sheeps and the other one "clipped" him in the back of the knees. Nikita then hit one with a sickle and the faces won the match. Grade of C- mainly due to the Sheeps constant exaggerations and Nikita.

DUSTY VS KEVIN SULLIVAN...Well, Dusty actually took some time to hug some fans on the way to the ring. That was a minor surprise. Dusty was in one of his "no selling" moods tonight, except when Kevin was using a foreign object on him. Jim Ross made a major error in calling this match when he commented that Gary Hart was driving a show into Dusty's heart. First of all, Dusty doesn't have a heart and secondly, with all that blubber protecting that area, if he did have one, he wouldn't feel it for two weeks at least. The ending was pretty messy and dumb. Kevin had the spike, but Dusty gets it away and uses it on Kevin. He covers him, but Hart pulls him off. Dusty goes after Hart and Perez comes in with a chain. Here's their first dumb part. As Perez and Sullivan

double on Dusty, referee Tommy Young starts counting! If this is a no DQ match, then what good does it do to count? If it isn't then isn't outside interference always an immediate DQ? Like I said, Dumb. Perez and Sullivan go to couple clothesline Dusty with the chain, but Dusty leaps instead and lands with his belly on the chain. This was supposed to pull Kevin and Perez together, and it did, but it looked terrible. In fact, think of the worst missed move in wrestling you can think of and realize, this was ten times worse than that. Hart comes in and Dusty catches him in an inside cradle and PINS GARY HART! Even DUMBER! Dusty then jumps out of the ring and goes and sits down with the fans in the first row, no doubt wanting to pose again in case PWI gives him the Most popular wrestler award again this year. I can't grade this as a wrestling match as it was a brawl, but then again it wasn't much of a brawl either, so here is a big fat D- for their efforts.

Warning: Don't ask John Ayers to do a live interview ever on TV! John, you'll remember is the former UWF commissioner. He has been appointed special referee in the Flair-Luger rematches. Trouble is, they had a special interview with him and this man couldn't talk if his life depended on it! It was all Ric Flair's fault...Flair stumped him with this question: "What qualifies you to ref?" John's face went white. I guess they didn't cover that question in rehearsal. Jim Ross and Tony Shivone both apologized for Ayers later in the show.

RICKY MORTON VS IVAN KOLOFF...This was a Russian Chain match that from the beginning looked to be predictable. They did some nice stuff with the chain, pulling each other in to objects and what not. Ivan even did a complete summersault off the top ropes into the middle of the ring. For a guy his age, that takes a lot of guts! Ivan had several attempts at touching all four corners of the ring (touching all four in sequence while dragging your opponent behind you constituted a win) with Morton breaking them up either just before or just after three. The end came when Morton had touched all but one corner. He was very close to the last one and Ivan was hanging on to the ropes for dear life. Paul Jones gave him his riding crop to hang onto for added leverage. Ricky was about a foot from the corner. Finally, Jones slipped, sending him one way and Ivan and Ricky into the corner to give Rick the "upset" win. Then came the predictable part (as if this hasn't been predictable so far). Ivan and Paul got in a shoving match with Paul getting leveled. In comes the Russian Assassin followed by a second one (early reports said it would be either Butch Moffat aka Jason from Calgary or Jack Victory) but from what we've just seen, I honestly can't tell. They destroy Ivan and no one comes in to make a save. They go to commercial and when they come back, the incident is forgotten. We left Ivan being hung by the chain over the top rope and now there's nothing! The match gets a C- and the turn gets a D. Too predictable and nothing in the way of explanations.

STING VS BARRY WINDHAM...Things started off hot. I think the title is going to change hands because at the opening, the featured Sting to hype the show. Kinda in the same vein they did Ron Garvin in his Road to Glory when he beat Flair. They missed a move somehow with Sting doing a leapfrog over a charging Windham. Not sure what they were trying to accomplish with the move as they tried to cover it up and the cover didn't look half bad. Sting got cocky and didn't sell a belly to back suplex and he responded with a great dropkick (standing) followed by a not so great one that caught Barry about stomach level. Windham is taking some ominous bumps. He's really good as a heel because faces aren't allowed to take these kind of bumps. He did one where he missed a charge into the turnbuckles and was balancing himself, bouncing on the top rope. Sting reached up and pushed him over. Windham bladed after being rammed into the ringpost. The end saw a ref bump with Sting doing his lead followed by the scorpion deathlock. JJ got in the ring with a chair and Sting saw him and hit him. Barry got the chair and

hit Sting with it. He covered Sting and Tommy Young recovered enough to start to count. But wait! John Ayews, who was at ringside, jumped in and explained what had happened and Young DO'd Windham. They didn't change the title! JJ threw a temper tantrum and John picked him up and put him in the corner with a few threats. Grade of the match was a solid B, but I had hoped for a match of the year candidate.

All in all, the show wasn't as good as the first two. Tony Shivone and Ric Flair hosted the show from a studio setting while Jim Ross and Bob Caudle handled the play by play. The announcing wasn't even up to it's usual excellence with Ross at the mike. Don't know why, maybe they had other things on their minds. Compared to Scam, I'd rate this show just ahead of it by a little with fifteen main reasons (and they all have a portrait of George Washington on them) why.

STOP THE PRESSES (which sounds a lot better than "Shut off the Photocopier!"): It would appear that Tully Blanchard and/or Arn Anderson have quit/been fired. Here's what I can piece together:

Saturday night in Philadelphia, there was a confrontation of some sort between either Tully or Arn and Dusty. It had to do with whoever it was talking nasty behind Dusty's back. Dusty told them they were dropping the belts to the Midnight Express that night, then they were through. The match had a controversial enough ending that they could reverse the decision if Tully/Arn make up with Dusty. All four men were in the ring. Eaton came off the top rope with a leg bomb on Arn just as Tully used a half nelson to roll Stan Lane into a pinning predicament. Tommy Young dropped to his knees, looked at the pins taking place on both sides of him, and then with both hands, counted three. Tully and Stan were the legal men in the ring, yet the belts were awarded to the Express. The decision was not reversed, at least not in the Civic Center. As far as we can tell, there were no TV cameras to record the change, so that in itself gives a lot of credence to the fired/quit story.

Other stuff that is going on...there is really no further word on the sale of the NWA to Ted Turner. Speculation is running high and after talking to a few people, I'm beginning to think that the thing where Ted Turner would start his own promotion if the sale doesn't go through is something of a bluff. The job of starting a promotion from scratch is a monumental task and one that takes quite a bit of time. It also takes quite a while to realize any profit. Still, while Crockett I'm sure, is well aware of this, he also has to be thinking that the man he's dealing with is a multi-millionaire and money may not be an object to him. After all, if he's willing to spend in excess of ten million for the NWA, wouldn't he be willing to sink that kind of money into his own promotion? Turner's September 15th deadline probably has a lot to do with the fact that his TNT network premieres on October 1st. We'll keep you updated as I'm making almost daily calls to find out the latest happenings from this story.

They did an angle with Jimmy Garvin a couple Saturdays ago to continue his feud with Kevin Sullivan and company. Jimmy, who we thought might have left the promotion, is going to be taking some time off, supposedly, to have some surgery done on a bad knee. The angle they did, didn't help things any. Jimmy was scheduled to wrestle Mike Rotundo on TV for the TV title. Before anything could get going though, Kevin Sullivan grabbed Precious and Jimmy came to her rescue. Rotuno joined in the battle and next thing we know, Mike has Jim down on the floor in a front face lock. Kevin gets a couple of cement bricks, holds them above his head and crashes them down on Jim's leg. The first one hit the floor more than his leg and broke. The second one hit more of his leg than the floor and it looked like it had to hurt a bunch, just if nothing else, from the way Jimmy twitched when it hit.

A low flying plane here in Knoxville clipped some electrical wires leading to the cable TV transmitter so we spent a lot of Saturday without cable TV. From the reports of others, I've been able to put some of this together. Thanks to all those who watched and helped.

Gary Hart came out at the very end of the TBS show and started a tirade about how he had come out and challenged anyone to a dog collar match on TV on behalf of Kevin Sullivan and no one had accepted. He then began saying how so many young stars come out and claim they want to be the best yet none of them were willing to put on the collar. He named Ron Simmons in particular. From what I've been told, this weekend's TBS show will feature a dog collar match between Simmons and Sullivan and will probably ignite a feud here. Steve Williams is one of Ron's friends, so I would almost expect to see him involved in the ending somehow.

Simmons' fate was questionable for some time. At arena shows they had him playing bayface part of the time and heel part of the time (when he played heel he did somewhat of an Ernie Ladd impression). They just didn't quite know how to use him and the arena shows not only gave him practice at both roles, but also allowed the promotion to see how he could best be used. It really didn't matter which role he was playing at the shows because more times than not he spent the last three seconds of the match staring up at the lights anyway.

Rumors in this business spread faster than anything I've ever seen. This is Wednesday as I type this and so far, people have Tully and Arn heading to Titan, to Turner's new group (I would doubt that as there is some legit heat between Tully and Turner, I'm told), to World Class and to the AWA. I've also been told that they can apologize to Dusty and have their jobs back. So who knows! Certainly not me.

Technically, it wasn't the match of the year, but by far the most calls I've ever gotten on a squash match had to be the one a few weeks back where the Midnight Express wrestled a couple of jobbers, one of which wore a mask. I felt sorry for the poor guy as Eaton kept turning the mask around so he couldn't see and then just playing with him. At one point he took him outside the ring, set him on a folding chair and then delivered a clothesline. Bobby and Stan looked like they were having fun, but I can't say the same about the guy in the mask.

Crockett didn't make friends with Ed Farhat, the original Sheik in Detroit. Sheik is running around telling people that Crockett stiffed him on payment of some ungodly amount of money. Not too many people are believing the Sheik at this point, but it's a good bet they won't be working together in the future.

There has been a lot of discussion as of late about Turner and the sale and how he has bought several professional sports franchises and sent them down the tubes. People point to the Atlanta Braves who this season have the worst record in baseball (and just lost to my Dodgers tonight) and say that he would destroy a wrestling promotion much the same way. The thing is, though, that the Braves team continues to make a profit (however little it is) and that's the name of the game. In baseball, a team can lose games and still make money and Turner knows that. He tried going after free agents and found that no matter how much he spent, about the same amount of people came out to the ballpark. With wrestling, there really is no winning or losing. If you have a good product, people will come out to see it and therefore each and every gate is important. Changes have to be made based upon those gates. Plus, there is no season that can start over next year. Turner may or may not have realized this and I'll withhold any further comment on this situation until Turner actually gets involved by purchasing the NWA or by starting his own show.

MORE ON GAREA

Congratulations to Ed Garea on a very interesting and well written article (V3I15 - The Smart Set). I always enjoy his writing but this article was exceptional. I'm sure he ticked off a lot of the so called smarts. As always, the truth hurts. He hit the nail right on the head with a lot of his comments.

I have been involved with professional wrestling since the early '80s on a marketing level as well as a promotional level. Recently, within the last year, after learning the so called ropes of a promotion from the Big Three (AWA, NWA & WWF), I started my own promotion. To concur with Ed, a lot of smart fans have only a speck of knowledge of what really goes on in the business and would feel awful dumb if they knew what really went on. There is a lot more to this business than they read in the insider's newsletters

This is not an attack on all smart fans, but there are a lot of them giving the good ones a bad name. But from experience, a lot of them ride the Bandwagon of Smartness and cannot form their own opinion.

Some of the things Ed wrote about never cease to amaze me. My daughter who reads Parade magazine would never go up to a movie star and call him by his real name. Why would someone with any intelligence go up and call a 6'5", 280 lb wrestler by his real name? Is that smart?

I have hundreds of stories of smart fans who aren't too smart by some of the stupid things they do. Yes, Ed, a lot are sophisticated like you said, but lack respect and manners.

Ed's category of serious fans and casual fan was an important distinction. But thinking back when we were so called marks...wasn't it great cheering for the babyfaces and cursing at the heels and not knowing the sport was worked? To have some one consider themselves smart and then look down on someone they consider a mark...who is really the smarter of the two? I hate the word "mark" as it keeps reminding me of that movie "the Sting."

-NAME WITHHELD-

-BY REQUEST-

SUMMERSCAMMED

I should have known. You buy the WWF Magazine, you pay for twenty pages worth of advertisements of WWF crap. You buy a program at the arenas for \$3.00 and you get more advertisements for merchandise. Why should I have expected any difference when shelling out fifteen bucks for a Pay Per View show that a proportional amount should have been advertisements for boxing shows and other garbage? After hearing the commentary, I'll bet Vince had to have a whole bottle of "Tum-ta-tum-tums" which I hope didn't work.

-ERIC HOYME-

-Indianapolis, IN-

I think that you were just a little too hard on SummerSlam. Granted you have a right to your opinion, but so do I. You and Dave Meltzer both covered it like it was something that no one could ever be interested in. Go ahead and criticize the show, but please don't make me feel like a total moron for enjoying it. No doubt it didn't even come close to being the best show that I've ever seen, but it did have its moments. Weren't you even the slightest bit impressed when Jim Neidhart hurled himself over the top rope and onto the concrete? You didn't even mention it. There were a lot of duds, but most of them mercifully short. I don't think that anyone who bought it should complain too much. It didn't look very promising right from the beginning so you should have realized what you were in for.

-MICHELLE JOHNSON-

Watertown, NY-

MEMPHIS/CONTINENTAL

You like Phil Hickerson, eh? Now, were we have an area where I am an absolutely modern fan: I don't want heels who look like they should be cleaning my windshield. I guess it's my lack of appreciation for the redneck style in general, but this guy is a disgrace to pro wrestling in my book. He's a classic example of Meltzer's "most embarrassing category: the guy you couldn't explain to a non-wrestling friend if your life depended on it. In a way, he's even more ludicrous as a champion than Pain was. At least with Pain, you understood what they were trying to do, even if it came up ridiculously short of the mark.

On the subject of the CWA, maybe you can help me out on something. I saw the Brickhouse Brown turn on SCOTTY - at least I thought I did. In that version, the gift he got was a hair pick. Now I have read numerous other descriptions of this angle where he got a slower car, a watermelon, a walkman and for all I know a partridge in a pear tree! Did you run this angle more than once? Did they film different versions in different cities in a bizarre attempt to out media Titan? I mean, it's a pretty joke, but the third time around has to lose a lot of zip, no?

I think the CWA, which I finally get to see via SCOTTY, is one of the biggest disappointments of my life. What crap! Fuller is way, but the guy shouldn't be coming out after EVERY MATCH! And they run the same angles endlessly: heels jump the face(s) and beat them up. Jeex, even brother Virgil runs better angles than this! And the supposed "Stud's Stable" consists some of the Alexiest peeks I have ever seen. That dude Golden is like Rick Rude on foot stamps...please get him a new robe that doesn't look like he got the sparkle paint on himself.

WTF, on the other hand, is a pleasant surprise, if slightly overrated by the cognoscenti. Gilbert is a brilliant booker, the best in the country, but his interviews and wrestling skills leave a lot to be desired. I also don't agree with the people who say he over-angles his acts. What he really does is spend time on each and every wrestler and makes every one special. There are very few pure jobbers in the WTF in the same way there are everywhere else.

-BILL KUNKEL-

-Woodhaven, NY-

EDITOR: The watermelon came the first week, followed by what you thought (and perhaps was) a hair pick. I saw it too, but couldn't tell what it was that got him so ticked off.

CLASH OF CHAMPIONS III

Did I miss something? Was there a purpose behind this show? Why did they lead up to the show all week with commercials on TBS with Jim Cornette crashing through a backdrop a la John Madden screaming about the Midnight Express and then not even mention Jim or the Express during the entire broadcast? I guess that's why they didn't mention them on the commercials. All in all, I thought the show left a lot to be desired. I think John Ayers should get a special year end award for "most likely to freeze up on a live interview" or something like that. Have fun reporting on this show. Hope you have as much fun with it as you did with the Scam show from Titan.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

-Brooklyn, NY-

MEMPHIS

With the show being preempted by FNN/SCORE so much, it's hard to keep up with what is going on here. Tapes are running late on the network, keeping us a few weeks behind. We'll have you all caught up to date though in the October 15th edition when we come back from convention.

Brickhouse Brown made his turn officially. Robert Fuller had presented him with a watermelon the week before which got him pretty hot. The next week Fuller gave him something else (I couldn't tell what it was) and Brown went off the deep end. He started fighting with Stud's stable and Robert (who was in a wheelchair due to revenge on the part of Jeff Jarrett) got out of the chair and whacked him with a cane or stick or bat or something (see how much of an impression it left on me?).

To replace Brown in the Stable, they've brought in Cactus Jack Foley from some eastern independents. Jack was one of the best workers in that part of the country, mainly Pennsylvania, and he's looking good here as well.

Bill Dundee returned and wants to get something going with Bruno who is copying Bill's Superstar routine. Bill switches back and forth between heel and babyface here that I think they need to put in one of those signs like on Hollywood sound sets that says "CHEER" or "BOO" just so the fans don't get confused. Bill brought out his son Jammie and he was attacked by Robert Fuller (who else), so Dundee feuds with Fuller and Jammie (who is still a teen) feuds with Downtown Bruno.

If nothing else important comes up (like the national tiddlywinks competition), SCORE will resume the Memphis broadcasts on October 1 at 8pm Eastern time.

Convention note...we have a surprise for convention goers and for the promotion. I understand that Kangaroo Al Costello is being booked along with a couple of his trainees for that weekend by the promotion (Al will be conventioning with us). Our surprise is that we have managed to come to terms with Lou Thesz and he will be in Memphis at the convention as well! I hope they do something to recognize him.

Jerry Lawler continues to hang on to the AWA strap. The original plan was to have had him lose it by this time, I believe, but because they can't really trust anyone else with the belt (besides Greg Gagne and Lawler refuses to do a job for him). This is taking away some of the time Lawler can spend here, and is ultimately hurting the live gates.

A WEEK WITH THE FED

EDITOR'S NOTES: This article was sent in by one of our readers. I have changed or deleted some of the references to towns to protect his identity along with the names of the wrestlers he worked with. This should give you an insight into the business that is rarely seen by ordinary people like us. Naturally, his identity will remain anonymous.

Sometimes I feel guilty. I sit at home a lot and watch TV. My wife has a good job and she for the most part supports myself and our child. She understands, somehow, about my chosen profession, if you can call it that. Let me explain how I got into this crazy sport in the first place.

In high school I was a pretty decent basketball and football player. I started from my sophomore year in both sports. I made all conference in both sports as well, and I had a couple of colleges recruit me. But I wasn't quite good enough to make their teams. I wasn't quite good enough academically for a scholarship either, so I dropped out of college after just a semester because of lack of funds.

I got a regular job that paid decently and married a girl I had met in college. It was during that job that I met a wrestler. I asked a lot of questions and since I was over six foot and weighed about 220, he said I should check into a school. My wife and I talked about it for quite a while after we checked into the school. I was working to put her through college and money wasn't going very far. But then again, the three grand it was going to take to get me into the wrestling school wasn't going to help either. We managed to put it together though after the instructor/owner made all sorts of promises to both me and my wife.

Among those promises were that I would land a job regularly at night within a certain mileage radius of my home so I could keep my day job. I could expect to be making at least an extra \$500 a week and "with my natural athletic ability" as he termed it, I could probably get a big break within my first six months. My wife said go for it and we parted with that precious three thousand dollars.

A year went by. In that first year, I had had a total of twenty three professional matches. Every single one of those matches took place at least sixty miles from home and one of them was over 200 miles away. I took home checks totaling \$517.50 for all my trouble. Out of that money, I had to pay all my own expenses in getting to and from the matches including one hotel bill for that long trip. In fact, the hotel bill was \$45 and my payoff for that night was \$40.

Why? Why would any rational human being agree to getting paid forty lousy bucks when he had to spend \$45 to sleep? Two reasons. First, my ride for the night got drunk and couldn't find his car keys, and the promoter kept telling me that all I had to do was make good impressions and I'd get full time work. Those promises kept me going. I believed, as did my wife that working for a few minutes each night and getting paid handsomely for it was better than slaving away at a regular job for eight to ten hours a day.

It was about four months after that when I lost my job. No big deal and it had nothing to do with my wrestling moonlighting. The company just had a massive layoff.

I went back to my instructor (by then I had graduated) and asked for help. When our school put on a show locally, I got paid between ten and fifteen dollars. They used the old "get some experience" line to get us to work so cheap. The instructor told me that when I signed up that I knew there were no guarantees with the business. In other words, when push came to shove, this guy turned into the coldest S.O.B. you'd ever want to run into.

The next three or four months were pretty lean. We had our car repossessed (it was nine years old anyway) and I found work at a department store unloading trucks part time. My wife landed a job in her chosen profession just in time. We found out she was pregnant. I continued to work a few spot cards for some independents for extra money. The next year was better as I wrestled forty one times and made almost \$1200 doing it.

One of these shows that I did had some TV cameras present and I found out they had taped the card for TV. I finally was able to arrange to have a tape of myself (that had been promised in school but naturally never came about). We spent some more money, got copies and I sent that along with a resume to the AWA, NWA, WWF, Memphis, World Class, and Continental, along with a couple of larger independents.

The WWF and World Class never responded. Gagne called and said he could use me as a TV jobber PROVIDING i could get to Las Vegas. He told me the pay for my efforts there (losing twice) would be the grand total of \$60. He made the smart ass comment that I could use that money to play the slots and stuff and maybe I could go home rich. That's when I decided that I would never work for the AWA.

One of Crockett's guys called and said that they could use me as a TV jobber as well. The pay wasn't half bad for a once a week trip to Atlanta, but getting there was. They ended up saying that if they ever taped in my area, they would give me a call. They made good on their promise (about five months later) and every time they come to this area, I still get a call to work the undercard. The pay is good for what they want me to do.

Memphis called too. They gave me a tryout and I made the trip to Memphis. I worked a TV taping on Saturday morning and a spot show on Sunday. They made me an offer, but not enough of one to get us to pack up and move (especially with a wife who was very pregnant - she had insurance to take care of the birth too) and find her a new job.

Continental wrote back and said "Thanks, but no thanks." The letter was nice, but that was the gist of what they said.

The Memphis tape gave me some more ammunition. We decided that we would wait for the baby to be born before we did much more. After the baby arrived, I sent out tapes again, mainly to anyone we missed the first time (Portland, Calgary, The WWF again and some more independents).

I got work for an independent on a steady part time basis. I was working about twice a week. Problem was, I was laid off again. Seventy five bucks a week doesn't go far.

Then out of the blue, about six months later, I got a call from the Fed (WWF). They were going to do a TV taping in our general area and needed some TV jobbers. I jumped at the chance. After talking to them I found out that not only our area (the TV tapings were being done 200 miles and about 325 miles from here) but they also had two spot shows set in the same general are over the next week. I agreed to work for them for four shows. Tuesday, Wednesday, then Friday and Sunday. I would be on the "C" or "D" team for the spot shows. Pay? Work two matches on the tapes and two more on the weekend and the total pay was going to be \$400. Plus, they would pay for lodging and some of the travel.

I got to the arena in the first town on Tuesday night about three hours early. They wouldn't let me in. I waited for what seemed like an eternity. I smoked about a pack of cigarettes. Finally, an hour before the card, I went back and tried to get in again. It seemed that the security guard wouldn't let me in because he didn't recognize me. I had been told to get hold of Tony Garea when I got there so I told the guard that. He disappeared behind the door and came back a few minutes later and said Tony wasn't there and no one else had heard of me. As we argued, Tony came up behind the guard. It turned out that he hadn't even gone to look for Tony. That was just the standard procedure

for anyone trying to get in that way. I went to the locker room and Tony checked a few things on a list. He told me I'd be working in the first hour of the tapings and in the third hour in a tag team. The instructions were short. The first match was to go no longer than 1:20 and I was to just sell my ass off. In the second match, I got to start the match, but my partner got the honors.

I stood there in amazement watching the "stars" as they got taped up and told war stories. With three teams working the country, this was almost a mini convention. I had hurt my ankle a couple of weeks back and I asked if I could get it taped. I was told that they had just enough tape to go around to THEIR guys and I would just have to make due. One of the suits told me, "You ain't gonna be in the ring long enough to worry about hurting your ankle anyway."

I walked up to the guy I was to do the job for in the first hour. He didn't want to talk. He was either stoned or drunk or both. He could formulate a full sentence if his life depended on it. I found out later that they had spent the afternoon taping TV interviews and he was talked out and on stimulants. I asked if there was anything special he wanted me to do. He scowled at me and said, "Go with the flow kid. Lay down at the finish. We'll just ad lib til then."

My first opponent was a maniac. He didn't think a minute and twenty seconds was long enough to work. So he attacked me before the bell. Beat the snot out of me. He worked very tight and called the whole thing as we went. We ended up going 1:47 or something and I got a chewing out when I got backstage. My fault for not laying down fast enough. I tried to explain that I was going along with what was happening to me, but the pencil (booker) walked off while I was in the middle of my explanation.

I had a sandwich back there and found my partner for the tag match. He had worked for them before and he told me that it was best that we just not make any waves. They use guys again who don't complain. We worked out our strategy for the match (we would be working as heels in this match) and figured out that I would beat up the guy first, then tag out, then tag in, then out before the faces made their comeback.

Unfortunately, our opponents had other ideas. I got worked over pretty good again before making the tag. My partner wanted to tag out again, but our time limit was just about up for this match, and they finally beat him. Meanwhile, I could feel my ankle swelling.

The Fed put us up in a nice hotel for the night. Since I had driven myself, they told me to be in the next town and ready to work by 7:00. They put me up with a roommate and we spent the night exchanging stories and drinking beer.

The next night went similarly. Both nights there were arena rats hanging around the arena afterwards and the hotel we were staying at. They wouldn't give me or my roommate the time of day. I wasn't interested because I truly love my wife and I don't need to explain to her some strange disease I picked up along the way. But about an hour after we got back to our room, a couple of rats from the lobby called to offer us a message. Seems they had run out of stars and were willing to make it with the jobber corps now.

I was offered during my stay a variety of things. I was taken aside by one of the stars and told that he could get me enough steroids to allow me to work regularly. I said thanks, but no. I never took them to begin with and If I can't get work without them, I won't get work. Coke was available through the rats as was pot. Again, I stayed away.

I found there must be another way to get regular work. I saw one of the newer guys coming out of one of the bookers' room about 5:00 am. Now I'm not saying anything or making assumptions about how long he'd been in there or what they were doing, but this guy ended up with a little push.

Friday night I got to do a job for another star. This time, however, I got to show a little offense. They told me that they wanted the match to go about eight minutes and this time I played the heel. I talked with my opponent for about half an hour before the match just to get things down. There were a few standard things that had to be done including a routine where I pull his trunks to get out of a side headlock, but the ref never catches it. Sure, it's old stuff, but then again we were the second match on the card. It didn't call for high spots one after another. In fact, after thinking about it, there were only a couple of spots during the match with the rest just chain wrestling.

I learned a lot from that match. My opponent went easy on me even though I slipped a couple of times and potatoed him with a couple of kicks and punches. They say guys in the Fed don't work. Let me tell you, I worked harder in that match than any other I had had in the previous three years or so.

The pencil was waiting in the door of the locker room when I got back. He had to ask my name again. He patted my rear end and said, "See you Sunday." No "thanks" no "good job" no nothing.

My roommate (we had decided to share transportation costs since we were both done Sunday and basically working the same towns) and I decided to drive on to the two Saturday shows scheduled. He was working the afternoon show, but no the evening show. I got into the show for free, but they wouldn't let me backstage. It was nothing special.

The surprise came Sunday night. We had a whole three hundred people in the house, if that. The pencil came up and said they had had a problem and were rearranging the card a little. There were some guys who had some problems getting there on time so he wanted me to work the opening match against my roommate. He said he needed a fifteen minute Broadway to allow other wrestlers to get there.

My roommate and I worked what had to be the worst match in the history of that high school gym and maybe even the whole state. What crowd there was started chanting "BO-RING" almost at the beginning. The ref told us at 15:00 that they needed us to go another few minutes. I worked as the face, though at this point the crowd was booing both of us equally. They just wanted the match to end. We ended up going about 18:00 before they rang the bell.

I guess I must not have impressed them. I wish this story had a happy ending, or at least a Cinderella ending, but it doesn't. I haven't worked for the Fed since. My roommate has and works for them once a month at least. I was told they would be calling, but it's been about seven months now, and nothing.

This does have a happy ending of sorts. I have added plenty to my audition tape and I now work semi regularly for a good independent. I work two or three nights a week for a payoff in the \$125 per week range) as a midlevel heel. We've got some TV and look to have some more before long (not Windy City). The money I make is going for three things: Pay bills, my kid's education, and my education. I know since I won't go on the chemicals, I'll never be a big star. I know I had better learn a trade of some sort and that's exactly what I'm doing.

I still love to wrestle. I want to improve. But I'm going to do it on my terms. I'm glad I had the opportunity to work for the Fed for almost a week and I'm glad my wife understands. I hope you have a better insight into what we go through too.

Editor's notes again: What'd you think? Any questions? This wrestler has agreed to answer questions here in the Forum from time to time so if you want something answered, send it in and we'll pass it along.

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

by Jeff Bowdren

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Since this is my first report on the Continental Wrestling Federation (CWF), I thought that we would take a look at the current wrestlers and feuds that are going on. Booker Eddie Gilbert is the lead heel and is currently feuding with Willie B. Hert (Pez Whatley). A few weeks back, Eddie beat up Willie's son on TV to put heat on the feud in a pretty good skit. Eddie is managed by Paul E Dangerously who seems intent on burning his bridges BEFORE he crosses them in the first place. It seems that an interview doesn't go by with out Paul badmouthing Dusty, Verne, Bill Watts, or someone else in the business. Hey Paul! Lighten up!

Austin Idol has just begun a feud with Mr. Olympia (Jerry Stubbs). This resulted from an incident where Idol wanted to split the prize money from a battle royal in Pensicola with Stubbs when they were the only two remaining. Stubbs took offense to this and wanted to settle it. Latter in an interview segment, Stubbs smacked Idol, despite the fact that Idol claimed that he and Stubbs "both lived in the same neighborhood in Pensicola." Along with that one, the ongoing feud between the Dirty White Boy and Tom Pritchard and the one between Ken Wayne and Danny Davis both continue. The matches between Pritchard and DWB are generally considered the best on the card.

The CWF debuts in Jackson, MI on 9/28 with the following lineup: Gilbert and Ken Wayne vs Idol/Hert in a bunkhouse tag; Shane Douglas and Lord Humongous (CWF tag champs) vs the Samoans, Sika & Kokina; Nelson Royal vs Danny Davis in a junior title match; Chris Adams vs Nightmare Freddie (Doug Gilbert, Eddie's brother); and Mr. Olympia vs Detroit Demolition (this match may change since Stubbs turned heel). I'm pretty sure this is close to the cards being run throughout the circuit. The cards usually end with some sort of a "check on a pole" battle royal. In addition, this group recently purchased the Knoxville promotion, and wrestlers such as Bob Armstrong (the Bullet), Doug Furnas, Johnny & Davey Rich, and possibly a few others will soon be showing up.

The CWF tournament will be held 10/3 in Birmingham. This past week, the top ten seeds were announced: 10-Bullet, 9-Dutch Mantell, 8-DWB, 7-Chris Adams, 6-Tom Pritchard, 5-Terry Gordy, 4-Bam Bam Bigelow, (who replaces Tommy Rich, more on that later), 3-Eddie Gilbert, 2-Austin Idol, and 1-Bob Orton Jr. In addition to the tournament there will be a CWF tag match for the title between Shane/Humongous and the Samoans and a hair vs hair match between ex partners Danny Davis and Ken Wayne.

Basically the reason Rich was dropped from the tournament and things were changed is that Bigelow was to meet Jerry Lawler for the AWA title. Lawler (for whatever reasons) pulled out of the match, much to the displeasure of the CWF front office. Rich and Idol were scheduled to appear on the 9/5 card in Memphis and they were told that if they appeared, they would no longer be welcome in the CWF. Idol no showed, but Tommy appeared anyway. Tommy was dropped from the tournament and replaced by Bigelow. This past week, Eddie claimed that the reason Tommy wasn't in the tournament anymore is that he is in an alcohol rehabilitation clinic. When announcer Charlie Platt stated that Tommy would be replaced by Bigelow, Eddie said, "No! No! He was supposed to be replaced by Johnny or Davey!" I'm told that on this coming week's TV show, they do a skit where Eddie claims that the whole family has a drinking problem including "Grandma Rich." Johnny comes out and basically says that while it's true that Tommy is a drunk, Eddie can't come out and say bad things about his grandma. (Obviously, Johnny is no relation to the Von Erichs, otherwise he would have covered up for Tommy too. I wonder if Irv Munchnick is going to do an expose on the Rich family?).

One last note. I was told that recently during a match with Pez, Eddie jammed his neck (legit) that was hurt about five years ago in a car accident. Supposedly he's going to have to take a few months off before he can start wrestling again. If he has to take some time off, I hope they have one heck of an angle to cover up his absence.

THE THIRD FALL

The usual third fall feature yields this issue, sort of. Instead of telling you a story and then springing the ending on you like we usually do, there's another story I'd like to relate.

Moose Cholak is a name most of you probably recognize. He worked here in the midwest for quite a few years both for the AWA in Chicago and Bruiser's independent promotion in Indiana. A big man weighing in at well over 300 pounds, he was hard to mistake coming to the ring. He always wore a real moose head along with a robe made out of fur. It was said that the moose head weighted over seventy pounds by itself. Moose Cholak owned Chicago. More aptly, he owned the International Amphitheater. Whenever he was announced for an upcoming card, fans in Chicago knew that there was going to be some serious butt kicking going down. Moose was nothing short of a local legend. Rarely did there is jobs, even in the sixties and seventies, the days where doing meant very little, and especially not in Chicago.

But this is the eighties. Many wrestlers have come and gone since those ruled the Amphitheater. Moose was well past his own prime the last time he appeared in the arena. Last summer, Moose appeared here in Knoxville at the county fair and I said that he was possibly the worst wrestler I had ever seen. Moose had trouble walking to the ring, his hip were in such bad shape. The match consisted of some poor jobber trying to bounce himself off Mooses massive girth and in the end, become victim of a poorly executed splash.

Recently, Moose was the special guest of the Windy City Promotion in Chicago. He didn't wrestle, but rather, managed as a babyface.

One of the other wrestlers on the card was Scott "Bam Bam" Bigelow. The only match he worked was a battle royal, which he won. But he was there, mainly because of the stint he did with the WWF recently.

Our story jumps now to after the show. Several youngsters hung around the dressing room entrance waiting to catch a glimpse of someone famous. They waited there patiently as it seems only kids can do in this situation. It finally paid off.

Scott Bigelow stepped from the dressing room entrance into the chilly late summer air. As his eyes grew accustomed to the dark as the kids ran up to him to ask for autographs. Bam Bam obliged each and every one of them, bending over to let some of the more curious examine the tattoo on his skull, and answering questions with short, but polite answers.

Not more than a minute later, Moose Cholak emerged from the dressing room. He stopped for just a second and surveyed the situation. It is not clear whether he stopped because his hips were bothering him again, or if he was trying to familiarize himself with the change in environment. He continued to his car, each step an effort, without ever being stopped once by the throng of kids clamoring for a Bam Bam Bigelow autograph. Cholak loaded himself into his car and drove off a forgotten man who remembered when he once owned the Amphitheater.

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This story was related to me by Lance Levine, Jeff Siegel and Steve Sims. It will be interesting twenty years from now if Scott Bigelow has history repeat itself and he remembers the outcome of a certain "non" third fall.

## WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Let's start off the report this time with a live report from Peoria IL where this past Monday night (9/12) when 2411 fans jammed the 13,000 seat Peoria Civic Centre for a good card on paper.

We missed the opening contest of Terry Taylor vs Lanny Poffo, but I'll give you two guesses as to how that one came out. I got off work at 7:00 and it's a 40 minute drive to Peoria so we also missed the beginning of the second match as well. We got to see however, about ten minutes of Blue Blazer (Owen Hart) vs Barry Horowitz. This reminded me of a jobber match from the seventies where no one really held a prolonged advantage and it just kept going back and forth. Both were very good and since they've been working together for the past couple of weeks, they have their moves down pretty well. Owen won it with a superfly leap from the top ropes. The crowd was really behind him. Grade B.

Next up was Curt Hennig vs Jim Brunzell. Brunzell has dropped the killer bee outfit in favor of his tie-dyed trunks of the 70's. Hennig established himself as the heel early by tossing jim out of the ring and not letting him back in. Curt sold everything (almost to the point of overselling), but they looked like they were having a ball working with each other. Then again, Jim always looks like he's smiling for some reason. The crowd really wouldn't pop for anything here and Hennig couldn't get booed for anything he did. Hennig about lost it when he yelled at the audience "I want some competition!" and some leather lung yelled back, "Then stay out of the AWA!" Hennig won it with a beautiful powerslam after Jim got several two counts on him. Grade B-.

Ted Dibiase then came out against Jim Duggan. Ted also looked like he was having fun. Ted sold everything with crazy bumps while Jim sold, but not well. Ted ended up being a punching bag for the most part, but he made Duggan look like a million bucks (pun intended). Jim did his high foot stomp (which I haven't seen him do since the old UWF). The end came with Duggan hitting Ted with a spear. He covered him but Virgil jumped in and started kicking him. They doubled on Jim for a while then Jim got the 2 x 4 (hi-yoooo city). He swung it at Ted and he pushed Virgil into the board.. Good stuff. Duggan cracked Virgil over the back with the board and it HAD to hurt a bunch. Grade for everything considered, B.

Koko B Ware vs Bad News Brown. Both worked hard with them missing a couple of moves but they covered them up nicely. End came when Koko missed a flying cross body block and as he was getting back to his feet, Bad News potatoed him with an enzuigeri. Koko stayed in the ring for an unusually long time and I was told later he had a bad headache. Grade C+.

Hart Foundation vs Rougeau brothers. They spent the first part of the match really working over Bret including one instance where Bret was almost out on his feet and Jacques whipped his face with his hand (very quick light slaps that are meant to antagonize more than anything else). Jacques spent most of the time in the ring and Raymond was in for only about 45 seconds total. Peoria hates the Rougeaus. The end came when Bret had Jacques in the sleeper. While the ref was distracted, Jacques pushed bret backwards into his corner where Raymond pulled something out of his tights and coldcocked Bret with it. Rougeaus by pinfall in a match that was worth a B. Nothing special, but it was just plain enjoyable to watch.

For some reason, Don Muraco and Greg Valentine just won't work in smaller towns. Or larger towns. They seem to be just plain lazy. Muraco's idea of drawing heat is calling Greg names loud enough that the audience will hear it. Don spent the first part of the match pre-occupied with the shin guard. Greg did a couple of headfirst falls. Nothing special or remarkable than that. The end saw a referee bump as Don put Greg in a pile driver. No ref to count so he went over to help him wake up. Greg slipped off the shin guard and whacked Don on

the back of the head and got the pin. Muraco ruffed up the ref after the match much to the pleasure of the crowd. This was the worst match of the night, but it shouldn't have been. Grade D+.

The scheduled main event was to have been Jake vs Rude. However, Jake's step father passed away and he no showed. That was not announced to the crowd. They instead made it sound like Jake had chickened out. Rude came to the ring and said that even though there wasn't a man in the building man enough to get in the ring against him (you can guess what's coming, right?) he would go ahead and give the women what they came for. He started disrobbing and had his back to the dressing rooms while swiveling his hips. You hear this thunderous HI-YOOOOO coming from the mass audience. Duggan climbs in the ring, throws out his chest, and puts his hands on his hips and stands there until Rude turns around. Rude tried to run, but Duggan grabbed him by the tights (half the audience got mooned). The match only went about three minutes and ended with Duggan pinning Rude clean in the middle after a cross body block. Grade C+. Duggan is so over in Peoria that if Bush or Dukakis chose him as a running mate, they would carry Illinois!

Well, now that that is out of the way, next time you'll be getting a shortened report from a live card as well. WWF is in Burlington, Iowa this coming Saturday night with a D team show. Normally I wouldn't go since the line up is partially what I saw here in Peoria, but Owen and the Harts/Rougeaus will be on the card (along with Sam Houston vs Danny Davis, Rockin Robin vs Sherri and Greg vs Muraco), we'll go.

I think Hulk Hogan has completely lost his mind. Have you seen his latest interview slots? He's wearing a "War Bonnet" that looks like something they used to wear in ancient Rome or something. It has a fist on top making it resemble a mohawk haircut and he's wearing a license plate on his back that says "HULKSTR" like he's been registered or something. I've gotten several reports about his matches and everyone seems to agree that once again, he looks like he's having fun in the ring. He's saying (at least on the generic interviews) that he's on the road to regain HIS championship and that he was the greatest champion of all time. Hmmm. Sean and I were talking the other night and he has the senario all figured out for a Hogan Savage match. From his idea and from the track record of the WWF, I'd be willing to bet they do some kind of a take off on the Bruno Sammartino-Pedro Morales feud of several years ago where neither was heel or babyface and it came about as just a misunderstanding.

Honky Tonk Man is not history yet. Neither is he a jobber-extraordinaire (yet). He will run a feud with Ultimate Dingbat over the IC belt for as long as they can milk it. Honky is coming to the ring without the belt, but he takes off his sash from his jumpsuit and he and Jimmy Hart hold it up to the crowd like it's a championship belt. They showed the Craig DeGeorge interview slot where Dingbat had the belt and told Honky to come and get it if he wanted it. Jimmy Hart came out with the megaphone and distracted him while HTM snuck up from behind and clobbered him with the guitar. He hit him in the head with it and it looked good and sounded even better. I've had several people call and comment on how real it looked but that was from the angle of the camera. It was a glancing blow with a breakaway guitar. Still, it looked tremendous.

The new set of TV tapings are taking place this week I believe and we should have a full report for you next time around.

No numbers to report on the SummerScam show, however if the calls in here are any indication, they had better hope that it didn't do very well. All but two have been negative and one of the positive reports came from Sean who attended the show live. He was spared the agony of endless boxing commercials and the commentary of Superstar Graham.

Latest rumor, of course, revolves around Tully and Arn and where they will end up. The main consensus is right here in the Fed, and as a matter of fact, I've heard October 5 will be their official start date.

I don't quite know what happened but somewhere along the line, the fans quit thinking or believing that the Powers of Pain were the Road Warriors. The newsstand magazines may have had something to do with it as they have pushed the fact that the Powers "ran" out of the NWA. Anyway, the reception for the Powers has not been the same as when they began. It may also have had something to do with Baron Von Raschke being introduced as their manager. He doesn't look a thing like Precious Paul.

A few issues back we reported several big names headed to Titan including Terry Gordy and Stan Hansen. Gordy has decided against it for the time being and Stan Hansen looks like he will remain doing his thing in Japan. The way I understand it is that Titan had made some preliminary offers and both wrestlers accepted. However, both sides had second thoughts and Titan withdrew both offers.

The Survivor Series will once again come from the Richfield Coliseum in suburban Cleveland on Thanksgiving night. I'm not sure what we can expect yet in the way of a line up, but you can bet there will be some angles set up for the months leading up to Wrestlemania. Nothing major, I would have to say, but some of the minor stuff with some of the middle of the card talent.

Michelle Johnson sent along with her letter which appears in Pencil Points, a note saying we somehow missed the birth of Bret Hart's daughter Alexandria back in May (the 17th). We send along the belated congrats to the proud parents.

The video editor from here has found a new toy. Twice in almost as many weeks, he's used a giant X and the famous black dot to edit out part of the picture on the screen during angles. The X blotted out Brutus Beefcake's blade job when attacked by Ron Bass and the black dot took out Rick Rude's more private parts when Jake Roberts ran in and tore off Rude's tights which had a picture of Cheyrl Roberts painted on them.

Big news here is the appearance and title defense of Ric Flair in Portland on 9/20 and the arrival of "Loverboy" Dennis Condrey to the area.

On 8/27, Mike Golden was doing commentary during a Top Gun (David Sierra)-Al Madril match when the Grappler came up and began yelling at Golden and the hooded heel suddenly attacked him, ramming his head into the announcer's table, hitting him with a metal chair and finally body slamming him on the TV booth floor. Top Gun left the ring to save Golden and was counted out to lose the match. Cameras missed some of the action in the booth as it stayed on the match too long. The least they could have done was have a split screen.

Next, it was time for a 6-man tag pitting Grappler, Avalanche and Madril against Scott Peterson, Billy Two Eagles and Golden. Golden was "hurting too bad to wrestle in the match" so Top Gun took his place. All six men were in the ring slugging it out and finally Two Eagles and Peterson were way-laid outside the ring. Then the three heels began unmasking the Gun when Golden ran in with his baseball bat. He rammed the end of the bat into Avalanche's stomach and then did the same to Madril but Grappler fled the ring before he could receive the same treatment. An "Oregon Death Match" (which is basically a no DO., anything goes type of match) was signed for the 9/3 show. This was between Grappler and Golden.

Col. DeBeers (who no-showed on 8/20 as he was at the AWA tapings in Vegas) did show up to defend his Northwest TV title against Steve Doll in a two out of three fall match and won the first fall cleanly with his reverse piledriver and the TV time ran out in the second fall. It is so silly that they insist on putting these two of three fall bouts on when they never complete a second fall and no one else does multiple-fall bouts anymore!

Buddy Rose pinned Art Barr using the ropes and Top Gun came out to play stool pigeon so Sandy Barr reversed the decision. Speaking of Art, he is going to be a fantastic wrestler some day if he keeps improving as he already has some great moves with tons of agility to go with it. A also feel that the most under-rated wrestler in the entire business is Two Eagles (Jesse Leon). His leaps and dives out of the ring rival those of Owen Hart. Barr and Two Eagles also make a great tag team as in a recent tag match against the Beach Boys, they did a double dive over the ropes onto Rose and Avalanche on the floor that looked awesome!

On 9/3, Dennis Condrey did commentary during the opening match and he was priceless! When announcer Don Koss asked if he would be concentrating on singles or tags, Condrey said he was going solo now because when he lost a tag match, his partner might be the reason but in a single match there is only one person to blame for a loss---the referee!! Condrey pinned Art Barr in his debut.

Don Owen announced that Top Gun would get the shot at Flair because "he beat Flair in a non-title match two months ago in Ft. Lauderdale" (SURE). Anyway, Grappler protested this so a match was set up between the two for 9/10 with the winner to face Flair. Grappler then offered \$1,000 to any of the heels who could hurt Top Gun before the 10th.

Al Madril kept yelling for Top Gun to come into the ring during his bout against Two Eagles and Al soon got his wish! Gun came in and began working Al over but Grappler and Buddy Rose ran in and Grappler attacked Gun from behind. As Rose and Madril held Gun, Grappler started loading up his boot but Steve Doll, Art Barr, and Mike Golden made the save.

Finally, the tag belts changed hands on the 9/3 card as the Beach Boys beat the Southern Rockers in a clean win as Rose piledrive Peterson to set up Avalanche's winning splash off the second rope. Avalanche will challenge Peterson for the singles belt on 9/10. Peterson later appeared on a TV interview with his ribs taped.

## WORLD CLASS

There is good news and bad news from the front office regarding the story that finally appeared in Penthouse. The bad news is, they couldn't stop publication. The good news is the story was edited and watered down enough that there was really no damaging content. It was revealed for the first time in print that the death of David Von Erich was probably due to a drug overdose (something most underground publications and readers had suspected for some time now), but that won't have any far reaching effects. The piece sounded to me like "sour grapes" and almost had a tone where the writer had a personal vendetta against the Von Erichs. I'm not sure I know the cause of that or even sure I want to know.

New faces include Kendall Windham from the NWA and Keichi Mutoh who is working as the Super Black Ninja. He is being managed by Kendo Nagasaki. Departures since last time are Jack Victory, who is set to be the new Russian for Crockett and the Simpson brothers. John Tatum was also supposed to leave, but unless Crockett wants to try to revive the four horsemen, he may end up staying.

Michael Hayes and Steve Cox are still involved in a feud with the Samoan Swat team, but it seems to have run its course as the matches are already getting boring. SST looks great, Michael is good, but Cox still doesn't have a clue. Michael tried to save the thing by taking away the predictability by doing most of the jobs himself, but it still isn't working.

The Sportatorium, that old tin shed where they hold their cards in Dallas each and every week, is in danger of being shut down. Building inspectors found several building code violations in recent weeks and the owners have been given a short time to have repairs done or face closing. I understand that the repairs are such that would cost a lot more than would be worth it so Fritz may have to find a new place to hold cards. Major problem as everywhere else is beyond their budget rent wise. You have to wonder if Fritz and family are kicking themselves in their collective rear ends for forcing Ken Mantell out of the promotion. Mantell had a deal with Billy Bob's and although not a real glamorous place (as if the Sportatorium is) it would at least give them place to wrestle cheap. Maybe Fritz should hire Verne as a building coordinator (or maybe he already has).

results from all over

8/28 MANCHESTER, NH (WWF) - courtesy of John McAdam...SD Jones pinned George Skoalund (F)... Greg Valentine beat Don Muraco (D)...Rockers over Conquistadors (F)...Iron Mike Sharpe pinned Chris Woods (F)...Hacksaw Jim Duggan over Ted DiBiase via DQ...NOTES: Finish was exactly the same as the Peoria show described earlier in the issue...the match was graded a B due to DiBiase.

9/3 BALTIMORE (NWA) - courtesy of Fred Naarisma ...Rick Morton/Ron Simmons/Brad Armstrong beat Shepherders/Larry Z...Fantastics over Ivan/ Assassin...Nikita pinned Rip Morgan...Rotunda over Steve Williams via DQ...Mrudoch beat Sullivan via DQ...Dusty/Sting downed Perez/Windham... Blanchard/Anderson went DDQ with Midnight Express ...Luger beat Flair by DQ...NOTES: Attendance: 8000...Dusty pinned Perez when Al put the spinning toe hold on Dus and he turned it into a small package...after they became disentangled, Dusty pointed to his left leg which Perez and Windham began working over...nice to have the director right there in the ring, huh?...Luger and Flair went to a false title change after a ref bump.... same ending going around.

9/9 SPRINGFIELD, MA (WWF) - courtesy of Ron Lemieux & Dan Reilly (grades by Dan and Ted Brutomesso respectfully)...Patera beat Bill Woods (D/Z)...Hennig over Brunzell (C+/C-)... Paul Roma beat Danny Davis (C/D+)...Blue Blazer defeated Barry Horowitz (B+/A)...Hogan pinned DiBiase (B+/A)...Bad News over JYD (F-/ZZ)... Rougeau Brothers defeated Hart Foundation (D/D) ...Ultimate Dingbat over HTM by DQ (D/D-)... NOTES: Attendance 3600....Hogan worked hard in his match and was the best Ron has ever seen him in...Bossman a no show as he wrestled in another town that night, subbing for OMG.





## MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

Last issue we had a trivia question that could earn you some prizes and it must have been a tougher one than I thought! There were no correct responses! We'll try it again. All we want to know is WHEN DID THE FIRST NON TOURNAMENT SINGLES MATCH BETWEEN ANTONIO INOKI AND TATSUMI FUJINAMI TAKE PLACE. If you know, send your answer to SEAN RYAN, BOX 142983, Anchorage, AK 99514. Sean has a prize package consisting of some old magazines, programs and promotional propaganda waiting for the winner.

Note to UAWF members....you should have your second issue of the UAWF magazine in your hands as it went out a couple of days ago. Once again, the quality left a lot to be desired, but that will change with the next issue. We have a couple of open spots in the convention trip for anyone who would like to go (due to a couple of last minute cancellations) so you can still get in, but you have to call me at (309) 289-2662 to reserve a spot. I'll give you details on the phone.

Here's a leading candidate for the DIPSTICK of the month award... Recently in Puerto Rico, they had an awards banquet for the wrestlers. They got ready to announce the winner of the wrestler of the year award and the announcer (JOe Pedicino I think) started leading up to the winner by saying he was a many time holder of the Universal championship and while he's doing this, everything is matching up with one Hercules Ayala. Hercules stands up and gets ready to accept the award when it is announced the winner is Carlitos Colon. Hercules is visually upset. Carlos then says that behind every good man is a woman and introduces his wife. At this point, Hercules stomps the stage and a brawl ensues. Hercules PUNCHES Mrs. Colon and (believe it or not) she BLADES! They stretcher her out to add heat to the existing feud with Hercules and Colon. I have no problem with Carlos getting his wife involved, but just because he has a road map for a forehead, does that give him the right to ask his wife to slice and dice hers? The promotion has had its problems since Brody's murder, but this is a bit drastic (not to mention tasteless) don't you think?

Here's a deal you can't beat: Ron Lemieux (whose name you read in our results section a lot) is making his reports available not only to newsletter editors now, but also the general public. Ron averages about two shows a month and is willing to send you the exact same, clear concise reports that we get for just 50¢ a report. This is not a money making venture for Ron...he just loves to correspond with other wrestling fans. The 50¢ covers (barely) the cost of printing and mailing. Send Ron however much you want and he'll put you on his list for that many reports. His address is 205 Vernon Ave, #187, Vernon, CT 06066.

Here's some NWA stuff that didn't quite make it to the report... Plans for Starrcade this year are all screwed up. Instead of running one show, they are thinking of doing it like a mini Bash tour with just five or six cities on the tour. There will be no pay per view or closed circuit for the show this year which makes it (if this is the way it's done) just another ho-hum affair. There will be a Clash of champions during the first week of December and their next PPV is scheduled for 12/26.

Attention all other newsletter editors: Maurice Forrester has agreed to review any wrestling newsletters he can get his hands on in a future edition of Factsheet Five. F5 is a newsletter about newsletter and is published quarterly with a circulation of about 3000. Maurice will be reviewing wrestling newsletters in the next edition of F5 and he asks that anyone wishing to be reviewed send him a few copies of their bulletin. He also says to be sure and say he can't promise a good review, but it will be reviewed by a fan who loves bulletins. Maurice's address is B31-8 Slocum Hts, Syracuse, NY 13210. He will

send a copy of the column to anyone who wants one.

Sorry you had to read this far before finding out that this issue was in fact NOT produced on a printing press. We cranked the thing up first thing Thursday morning (we had done a test run that came out perfect with some old copies), and we can't get the thing to produce a readable copy. What was that someone said about the drawing board?

Dusty Rhodes' son is beginning his professional wrestling career down in Florida for Mike Graham's promotion. He'll be using the ring name of Dustin Rhodes and I believe he will be billed as Dusty's son. He was trained by Skandor Akbar (which is a surprise because we had always been led to believe that Dusty and Skandor were mortal enemies in real life) and Akbar has nothing but good things to say about Dustin. Okay.

Speaking of Florida, there is no Global report this time around and it's just as well...the promotion is all but bankrupt according to a couple of stockholders. I have no confirmation from the promotion or anyone else in the area, but one person told me that they were showing reruns of previous shows for the past couple of weeks.

Legendary Lou Thesz has begun a school in Virginia where he will be training young wrestlers in freestyle and greco-roman wrestling. The idea behind this is to start a promotion here in the US much like that of the UWF in Japan. Even if the US audiences don't take to the strong style of wrestling, Thesz feels that his boys that he trains will have work available in Japan. We'll have more details on this in future issues.

Also, there is a group forming here in the US that is going to try to promote professional wrestling as a legitimate team sport. They are trying to sell franchises to cities around the country. This wrestling would be collegiate style and legit. Is there a market? Is there anyone who is willing to invest a whole bunch of money for a franchise? If you are willing, send the money here...I'll lose it just as fast as they do and I guarantee it'll be put to better use (I wonder if they have someone who gives lessons in operating an offset press?).

That's it for another issue. We'll see you in a couple of weeks and for a bunch of you, we'll see you in person in Memphis in about three! Keep smiling!

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